

OPEN DOCUMENT FORMAT

ODF ALLIANCE

9 March 2007

You can download a free PDF version of the newsletter:

<http://www.odfalliance.org/press/Newsletter20070309.pdf>. Please feel free to forward to whom it may be of interest.

### **Ecma Responds to National Standards Bodies' Reports of OOXML Contradictions With ISO/IEC Standards**

Of the 20 national standards bodies in ISO/IEC Joint Technical Committee 1 (JTC-1) issuing responses during the 30-day "contradiction" period during which OOXML was reviewed for contradictions with IEC/IEC standards, ConsortiumInfo.org reports "14 were negative, two indicated divisions of opinion, three were inconclusive or neutral, and one offered no objections." ComputerWorld reported that six countries -- Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, Kenya, New Zealand and the United Kingdom -- strongly opposed putting Open XML to a vote. Under JTC-1 "fast-track" procedures, the 5-month ballot period cannot begin until contradictions are resolved. The JTC-1 Secretariat will "consult with ITTF (Information Technology Task Force) staff regarding the next steps to be taken with the Fast Track submission. Based on this consultation, the Secretariat will communicate the next steps to JTC-1 National Bodies in the very near future."

ConsortiumInfo.org -

<http://www.consortiuminfo.org/standardsblog/article.php?story=2007022819130536>

ComputerWorld -

<http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9012092&pageNumber=1>

### **California Joins Texas, Minnesota In Introducing Open Document Legislation**

California became the third U.S. state to introduce open document format bills this year. Assembly bill (AB) 1668, introduced by Assemblyman Mark Leno (Dem., San Francisco) would require that all state agencies, beginning on or after January 1, 2008, create, exchange, and preserve all documents in an open file format as specified in the bill, and to become equipped to receive any document in such a format.

CA Assembly Bill 1668 - [http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/07-08/bill/asm/ab\\_1651-1700/ab\\_1668\\_bill\\_20070223\\_introduced.html](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/07-08/bill/asm/ab_1651-1700/ab_1668_bill_20070223_introduced.html)

## **Denmark Announces Plan To Implement Parliament's Open Standards Resolution**

Following up on the June 2006 Danish Parliamentary resolution that all digital information exchanged between authorities and citizens, companies and institutions, should be available in formats based on open standards, Danish Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Helge Sander, announced an implementation plan making it "mandatory to use at least one of the document standards Open Document Format or Office OpenXML," and that it is up to the individual agency to decide what they want. The report explains that a study will be conducted in 2007 with "the purpose of obtaining the necessary experience with these standards before 1 January 2008."

GotzeBlogged - <http://gotze.eu/2007/02/mandatory-open-standards-in-denmark.html>

## **Finland's Ministry of Justice Reports Positive Initial Results of Switch to OpenOffice and ODF**

At a 28 February 2007 workshop in Berlin on Open Document Exchange Formats sponsored by the German Presidency of the EU, Finland's Ministry of Justice reported on its phased implementation of OpenOffice.org and ODF, concluding that "OOo is a sufficient solution for the Ministry, it interoperates well with MS Office and the Ministry can internally provide the required support and installation services. With this solution the Ministry expect to achieve savings of 5,6 million Euros (\$7.5m) during the next 5 years." The report noted that support of different file formats is, as a whole, one of the strong points of OpenOffice.org, and that no information security problems related to the OpenOffice.org software or the OpenDocument format appeared during the piloting. The native support of OpenOffice.org to the OpenDocument ISO standard ISO/IEC 26300 for office documents was cited as an important factor in order to achieve interoperability between organizations and citizens. After the migration is complete, OpenOffice.org will be the primary office suite for 8500 persons and Microsoft Office for 1500 persons.

Finland Ministry of Justice Report -

<http://www.om.fi/Etusivu/Julkaisut/Julkaisusarjat/Toimintajahallinto/Toiminnanajahallinnonarkisto/Toimintajahallinto2007/1171362109118>

## **South Africa Commits to Open Standards as Part of Migration to FOSS**

The South African Cabinet announced approval of a free and open source software (FOSS) strategy. The cabinet said "all new software developed for or by the government will be based on open standards and government will itself migrate current software to FOSS. This strategy will, among other things, lower administration costs and enhance local IT skills." The government plans to set up a FOSS project office by April of this year.

Tectonic - <http://www.tectonic.co.za/view.php?id=1377>

## **New ODF Applications Support:**

- 1) Alacos' Lettos Beta Online Conversion supports multiple document conversions, including .doc to .odt and .pdf, .odt to .pdf and .doc, and .xls to .ods and .pdf, among others. (<http://www.lettos.com/index/>).
- 2) Sun's ODF plug-in for word is now available (<https://sdlc2b.sun.com/ECom/EComActionServlet;jsessionid=6EBC2A139FA1D0E3CE2F2B747D66D652>)
- 3) Google Apps Premier Edition officially arrived and is available for free through 30 April 2007 (<http://www.google.com/a/>)
- 4) Novell's OpenXML Translator provides support for opening and saving Microsoft OpenXML-formatted word processing documents (.docx) in OpenOffice.org (<http://download.novell.com/SummaryFree.jsp?buildid=ESrjfdE4U58~>)

## **OASIS Symposium 2007 To Feature ODF**

ODF will be among the standards and technologies featured at the fourth annual OASIS Symposium "eBusiness and Open Standards: Understanding the Facts, Fiction, and Future" in San Diego, CA, 15-17 April 2007. The program will open up with a keynote address from Bob Sutor, Vice President, Standards & Open Source at IBM. A half-day special workshop titled "ODF Adoption, Accessibility, Programmability and Future" hosted by the OASIS ODF Adoption Committee will be held on April 18 focusing on the 'implementability' of using applications that comply with the OpenDocument format.

Oasis Symposium 2007 - <http://www.oasis-open.org/events/symposium/2007/index.php>

ODF Workshop - <http://www.oasis-open.org/events/symposium/2007/wednesday-friday.php>.

## **Upcoming Conferences/Events With ODF Tracks:**

BostonPHP January User Group: ODF what's in it for you? [4 April 2007, Boston, MA]  
[http://www.bostonphp.org/component/option,com\\_gigcal/task,details/gigcal\\_gigs\\_id,23/](http://www.bostonphp.org/component/option,com_gigcal/task,details/gigcal_gigs_id,23/)

International Standards for Digital Archives – 3rd European Conference on EAD, EAC and METS  
[24-26 April 2007, Berlin, Germany]  
<http://www.bundesarchiv.de/instada/en/index.html?lang=en>

OpenOffice.org Conference (OOoCon 2007)  
[September 2007, Barcelona, Spain]  
<http://marketing.openoffice.org/ooocon2007>

## **New Alliance Members**

Please welcome the following new members: TintaDigital STI (Portugal); Dream Prints, Inc. (USA); bloomhost.net (UK); and SC Liant Ist SRL (Romania).

## **\*\*ODF IN THE NEWS\*\***

### **Microsoft playing three card monte with XML conversion**

Posted by Dana Blankenhorn @ 9:05 am

March 2nd, 2007

<http://blogs.zdnet.com/open-source/?p=959>

### **California may adopt OpenDocument**

By Candace Lombardi, CNET News.com

Published on ZDNet News: February 28, 2007, 2:56 PM PT

[http://news.zdnet.com/2100-9595\\_22-6163186.html](http://news.zdnet.com/2100-9595_22-6163186.html)

### **Watching the ODF - OOXML Debate**

O'Reilly XML.com

Sunday February 18, 2007 2:51PM

by Kurt Cagle in Opinion

[http://www.oreillynet.com/xml/blog/2007/02/watching\\_the\\_odf\\_ooxml\\_debate.html](http://www.oreillynet.com/xml/blog/2007/02/watching_the_odf_ooxml_debate.html)

### **Open XML vs.ODF: Document Format Wars Rage On**

CIO Today By Jennifer LeClaire February 8, 2007 9:17AM

[http://www.cio-today.com/story.xhtml?story\\_id=020001S6N9MG](http://www.cio-today.com/story.xhtml?story_id=020001S6N9MG)

### **Open XML hits further problems**

19 countries issue contradictions to the document format

Madeline Bennett, IT Week, 08 Feb 2007

<http://www.itweek.co.uk/itweek/news/2174488/open-xml-hits-further-problems>

### **OpenDocument Software Gains Momentum**

By W. David Gardner, InformationWeek

12:49 PM EST Wed. Feb. 07, 2007

<http://www.crn.com/sections/custom/custom.jhtml?articleId=197004139>

### **OpenDocument and the office experience**

Linux Magazine - Cover Story

Issue 75 - February 2007

[http://www.linux-magazine.com/issue/75/OpenDocument\\_Intro.pdf](http://www.linux-magazine.com/issue/75/OpenDocument_Intro.pdf)

### **Do Office and OpenOffice Matter?**

sogrady - tecosystems

Feb. 20, 2007

[http://redmonk.com/sogrady/2007/02/20/does\\_office\\_matter/](http://redmonk.com/sogrady/2007/02/20/does_office_matter/)

### **A Look at Microsoft Office Alternatives**

Network Computing

Feb 19, 2007 - By Jonathan Feldman

<http://www.networkcomputing.com/article/printFullArticle.jhtml?articleID=197005716>

**Perspective: Microsoft's amusing standards stance**

By Håkon Wium Lie CNET News

Published: February 22, 2007, 7:05 AM PST

[http://news.com.com/Microsofts+amusing+standards+stance/2010-1013\\_3-6161285.html](http://news.com.com/Microsofts+amusing+standards+stance/2010-1013_3-6161285.html)

**Google targets business market with online software suite**

MercuryNews.com Posted on Wed, Feb. 21, 2007

<http://www.siliconvalley.com/mld/siliconvalley/16753704.htm>

**Google Apps (Finally) Arrives: The Q&A**

sogrady – tecosystems

[http://redmonk.com/sogrady/2007/02/23/google\\_apps/](http://redmonk.com/sogrady/2007/02/23/google_apps/)

**Preserving ideas**

Thursday, March 01, 2007 by Dave Winer.

<http://stories.scripting.com/2007/03/01/preservingIdeas.html>